

Nov. 25, 2013



Contact: Jeff Holman
651-539-1090 office
Jeff.Holman@state.mn.us

Virtual Panel to discuss strategic advantages of hiring people with Disabilities during Human Rights Week

ST. PAUL, MN – Realizing the strategic advantages to hiring people with disabilities will be featured at a virtual panel discussion from 9 to 11 a.m. on Dec. 6 as part of MDHR's Human Rights' week.

Minnesotans statewide can engage in a virtual discussion regarding the advantages of hiring people with disabilities by looking beyond stereotypes and expanding the employment opportunities for the disability community. Disability community members will share their successes in finding rewarding employment as well as the challenges in seeking employment. Employers will discuss the advantages of hiring people with disabilities and the successes realized through their experiences

"More businesses are beginning to recognize the talents of the disability community as an important segment in Minnesota's workforce," said Commissioner Kevin Lindsey. "There is more work to be done to expand opportunities for people with disabilities to use their talents in mutually rewarding employment."

Employees engaging in the conversation includes Howard Rosten, an assistive technology expert from Mankato, Meredith Dupre, a licensed social worker seeking employment, Allen Chandler, an Independent Living Specialist at Southeast Minnesota Center for Independent Living, Tracy Bell, a deaf and hard of hearing services supervisor from Mankato, and Lori Thompson, office administrative support specialist with the Minnesota Board of Pharmacies.

Employer panelists include Mara Thompson, Medtronic, Scott Berscheid, operations manager at Pitney Bowes Presort Services in the Twin Cities, Kari Scanlon, Human Resources professional from JEM Technical from Orono, and Patricia Eggers, Office Manager for the Minnesota Board of Pharmacies.

The event will feature video remarks from Michael Murray, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, on the Strategic Advantages to Hiring People with Disabilities and will be moderated by Jon Alexander, Chief Executive Officer, Kaposia.

Join the video conference using the two links: [Real Media Stream Link](#): [Windows Media Stream Link](#). The video conference will be closed captioned.

Event sponsors include: Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development, Minnesota State Council on Disability, Minnesota Management and Budget, Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Department of Human Services, State Services for the Blind, Commission of Deaf, Blind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans, State Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division, and Minnesota STAR Program.

For more information about the Strategic Advantage to Hiring People with Disabilities video conference and other Minnesota Human Rights Week events, visit mn.gov/mdhr or follow us on Twitter at [@mnhumanrights](https://twitter.com/mnhumanrights).

###

EDITOR's NOTE: See the list below of video conferencing sites throughout Minnesota.

Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Communications Department
Freeman Building, 625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Satellite Locations

Alexandria

Douglas Co Human Services
809 Elm Street, Suite 1186
Alexandria, MN 56308
Crookston

Polk County Government Center
612 N. Broadway
Crookston, MN 56716

Duluth

St. Louis County Government Center
320 W 2nd Street, Room 609
Duluth, MN 55802

Fergus Falls

Otter Tail County Government Services Center
550 West Fir Avenue, Small Room
Fergus Falls, MN 56538

LeCenter

LeSueur Co. Human Services
88 South Park Ave
LeCenter, MN 56057

Mankato

Blue Earth County Human Services
410 So. 5th Street, 3rd Floor,
River Room
Mankato, MN 56001

Marshall

Lyon County
SouthWest Health and Human Services
Courthouse
1st Floor 607 W Main Street
Marshall, MN 56258

Minneapolis

Hennepin County Government Center
Room 1713
300 S. 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487
Moorhead

Moorhead

Clay County Family Services
715 – 11th Street N.
Moorhead, MN 56560
Olivia

Renville County

410 E. DePue, Room 121b
Olivia, MN 56277

Rochester

Olmsted Community Services
2107 Campus Drive, 2nd Floor Rochester, MN
55904

Redwood Falls

Redwood Co Human Services
302 E Third Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Red Wing

Goodhue Co. Gov Center
509 W. Fifth Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

St. Peter

Nicollet County EOC Room
501 S. Minnesota Ave.
St. Peter , MN 56082

Warren

Marshall Co. Social Services
208 E Colvin Ave
Warren, MN 56762
Minnesota

Windows Media: <http://156.98.61.3/tcs/?id=e4767b12-aafe-4ff8-b92c-38dac4cb5b0a>

Real Player: <http://stream1.video.state.mn.us:8080/ramgen/broadcast/dhsstratadvhirepeopledisabil.rm>

If your preferred remote location is not available, please use the links above to watch the event via the Internet.